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IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A method for providing a custom interactive program guide (custom-IPG), the method comprising:
 - receiving selections indicative of a set of channels to be included in the custom-IPG;
 - rendering one or more custom-IPG screens, at a head end, having included therein the set of selected channels;
 - receiving a request to view a custom-IPG screen on a particular channel;
 - overlaying the custom-IPG screen on a video sequence being provided on the particular channel to generate a modified video sequence having included therein the custom-IPG; and
 - providing the modified video sequence on the particular channel from the head end.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a command indicative of a particular location at which to overlay the one or more custom-IPG screens;
 - re-rendering the one or more custom-IPG screens at the particular location indicated by the received command; and
 - providing the one or more re-rendered custom-IPG screens from the head end.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the custom-IPG is provided concurrent with at least a portion of the video sequence being played on the particular channel.

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5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular channel is a channel currently being viewed.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular channel is a channel used to carry regular program guide (regular IPG).
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a request to turn off the custom-IPG; and
 - providing the video sequence on the particular channel without the custom-IPG.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the custom-IPG is provided on a channel that is independent of channels used to carry regular programming and program guide.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a request indicating a selection for either the custom-IPG or a regular IPG on a particular channel; and
 - depending on the received request, providing either the custom-IPG or the regular IPG on the particular channel.
10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the one or more custom-IPG screens is formed as a subset of a regular IPG screen.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the custom-IPG is rendered and stored at the head end.
12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the custom-IPG is stored as part of a profile for a particular viewer.

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13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the custom-IPG is dynamically modified and re-rendered at the head end.

14. (Previously presented) A method for creating a custom interactive program guide (custom-IPG), the method comprising:

activating a program guide customization process;

receiving a pop-up menu provided to assist in the customization process;

selecting a channel on which to receive the custom-IPG;

selecting a set of channels to be included in the custom-IPG; and

receiving on the selected channel a custom-IPG screen having included therein the set of selected channels, wherein the one or more custom-IPG screens are rendered at a head end.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

indicating a particular arrangement for the selected channels, and

wherein the rendered custom-IPG screen has the selected channels in the indicated arrangement.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the activating is achieved by highlighting a particular object provided on a regular IPG screen.

17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the activating is achieved by a key depression on a remote control unit.

18. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pop-up menu is generated at a head end.

19. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pop-up menu is overlaid on a current screen being viewed.

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20. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selecting is achieved by highlighting objects rendered in the pop-up menu.

21. (Previously presented) A system for providing a custom interactive program guide (custom-IPG), comprising:

- a video session manager operative to receive selections indicative of a set of channels to be included in the custom IPG and to receive a selected channel on which to receive the custom-IPG;

- at least one video encoder operatively coupled to the video session manager and configured to render and encode one or more custom-IPG screens having included therein the set of selected channels;

- a transport multiplexer coupled to the video encoder and operative to receive the one or more encoded custom-IPG screens and generate a transport stream; and

- a modulator coupled to the transport multiplexer and operative to receive the transport stream and generate an output signal suitable for transmission on the selected channel, and

- wherein the one or more custom-IPG screens are provided on the output signal upon receiving a request for the custom-IPG.

22. (Previously presented) A set top terminal (STT) for providing a custom interactive program guide (custom-IPG), comprising

- a demodulator operative to receive a modulated signal and generate a transport stream;

- a transport de-multiplexer coupled to the demodulator and operative to receive and process the transport stream to provide one or more encoded custom-IPG screens on a selected channel; and

- at least one video decoder coupled to the transport de-multiplexer and operative to receive and decode the one or more encoded custom-IPG screens to provide an output video sequence, and

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wherein the one or more custom-IPG screens are rendered at a head end and sent to the STT on the selected channel upon receiving a request for the custom-IPG.

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